

was merely an accounting change, the effect was a real cut in support for our school lunch program. The commodities, which will not be purchased under the entitlement authorization, are the ones best suited to meet the menu and nutritional requirements of our school meal programs. The impact of the change was not felt last year or this because Congress yet again passed another statute that correct the error, but only for 2000 and 2001. But our schools will lose more than \$55 million dollars in entitlement commodities in 2002 unless we act to correct the problem. Over the next eight years, this cut will exceed \$440 million. That is a very real and significant cut to our school programs. Make no mistake, this is a school lunch budget cut—this is more than \$55 million per year that schools will not receive. It is also a \$440 million cut in the amount of agricultural commodities purchased by USDA.

I have spoken with several of my colleagues and they share my interest in this matter. After all, this money is used by USDA to purchase agricultural commodities, and these purchases have a significant impact on producer incomes. The magnitude of this cut is even more dramatic when you consider the amount of food that it represents. This cut means that USDA will reduce its overall purchases by 660 million pounds.

One of the best ways we can move forward as a society is to meet our obligations to our children. The Federal Government must follow through on its commitment to work in partnership with states, schools, and the agricultural community to administer a major program designed to improve children's diets and, in turn their overall health and well being. We can be proud that these school meal programs promote the well being of some of our Nation's most vulnerable children by providing them with the nourishment they need to develop healthy bodies and sound minds. Nutritious meals help students reach their full potential by keeping them alert and attentive in the classroom. As both common sense and extensive scientific research confirm, a hungry child cannot focus on schoolwork as well as one who has been fed a nutritious meal.

Mr. Chairman, recognizing the many needs being addressed in this bill, I will withdraw the amendment, but would like to draw attention to how we, the representatives of our pre-school and school age children across America, have neglected them. And in the spirit of National School Lunch Week, which begins the second week of October every year, I would also like to express my interest in working together with members of both the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Education and the Workforce to explore this issue and seek ways to support our nation's pre-school and school age children by providing additional agricultural commodities. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with all of my colleagues who share my concern to amend this problem and provide for our pre-school and school age children at home first. Thank you.

IN MEMORY OF SAMANTHA EGAN,
LISA EGAN, MICHAEL CURTAIN
AND JOANNE AHLADIOTIS

HON. FELIX J. GRUCCI, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2001

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of four constituents from the community of Rocky Point in my district who lost their lives at the World Trade Center in the tragic events that occurred there on September 11, 2001.

The tragedy that struck our great nation on the morning of September 11 has been an immense source of sorrow and mourning for our country, touching the lives of nearly every citizen in our country. This is especially so in Rocky Point, where the lives of four alumni of Rocky Point High School High School were taken on that fateful morning. This community will gather together this Sunday, October 7, to celebrate their lives and show their unity as a community.

Samantha Egan, a graduate of Rocky Point High School in 1992, spent much of her time involved in student activities. She played on the soccer, basketball, and softball teams. She was a member of both the Singing Santa's and Leaders Clubs. Samantha was also an adept musician.

Lisa Egan, Samantha's younger sister, was a graduate of the class of 1988, also spent her time studying and playing music. An ambitious young woman, she remained heavily involved in the Peer Leadership Program at her school where she spent much of her time.

Michael Curtain, a graduate of the class of 1975, retrained both the attributes of a scholar and an athlete. Michael occupied his time in the Thespian Society while at the same time holding the office of Vice President of his class. Michael played for the soccer, basketball, and baseball teams. He also involved himself in the Varsity Club. His guidance counselor once reflected upon Michael's career goals, stating, "I hope Mike will be given a chance to attain his goal as a police officer".

Joanne Ahladiotis, a graduate of the class of 1992, was regarded as a well-rounded and dynamic person. Her interests were diverse, ranging from the study of Modern Greek and playing on the field hockey team, to performing in the High School musical and working on the school's yearbook.

Those who lost their lives and those that gave their lives in the line of duty at the World Trade Center have shown themselves to be heroes. Their lives, like the lives of many other Americans that day, are a shining example of what makes this country as great as it is.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest sympathies and condolences to the Egan, Curtain and Ahladiotis families, and join the Rocky Point community in honoring the memory of these four young people.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND WORKING FAMILIES

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the urgent need to provide imme-

diately economic stimulus to this country in the form of a payroll tax rebate for working families.

The United States is facing a crisis, and it is not merely a security crisis. There is a visible, pressing need for economic stimulus and worker relief.

We should move quickly to jumpstart the economy by putting money into the hands of the tax paying lower wage workers that are more likely to spend it immediately.

My bill, the Working Families Tax Rebate Act will do just that.

This bill will provide an immediate payroll tax rebate of up to \$300 to people who didn't benefit from the tax cut signed into law in June.

The dramatic decrease in travel and tourism not only affects those workers employed by the airline industry.

Working men and women in the hospitality industry and service sector are also facing massive layoffs.

These people need immediate help with buying their groceries, preparing for the holidays, and paying their heating bills. Our shop keepers need consumers back in the stores.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3015. Because this country needs economic stimulus now.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2001

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber when the following rollcall votes were taken, rollcall vote 336, rollcall vote 337, rollcall vote 349 and rollcall vote 350. I want the record to show that had I been present in this Chamber I would have voted "yea" on each of these rollcall votes.

VERMONT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CONGRESSIONAL TOWN MEETING

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2001

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the outstanding work done by participants in my Student Congressional Town Meeting held this summer. These participants were part of a group of high school students from around Vermont who testified about the concerns they have as teenagers, and about what they would like to see government do regarding these concerns.

I am asking that these statements be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, as I believe that the views of these young persons will benefit my colleagues.

ON BEHALF OF BLAKE KINKAID, CRAIG STEVENS, AND BRITTANY CHANDLER

REGARDING TOBACCO PREVENTION—MAY 7, 2001

CONGRESSMAN SANDERS: Now we are going up to the Northeast Kingdom and the Northeast Kingdom Youth Services. Who is going to begin?

BLAKE KINKAID: Blake Kinkaid.

BRITTANY CHANDLER: Brittany Chandler.

CRAIG STEVENS: Craig Stevens.

BLAKE KINKAID: That's a pretty tough act to follow, you guys. I have been watching it. The whole Napster thing. That is awesome. The cannabis thing. It is kind of hard to follow up on, but Josh, the whole tobacco thing killed a lot more people. He said that cannabis hadn't. Tobacco kills one person every fourteen seconds, different related disease such as cancer, heart disease, or anything like that. My dad, he has been a smoker ever since he was 14. And it has been a big shock to me. Last night, he was put in the hospital because of his heart. He is 40 years old. He just turned 40, and he is having heart problems through all the smoking. It scared the crap out of me, because it is exactly what my grandfather did when he was on his deathbed. Well, emphysema. He had smoked all his life too. And I just realized: Oh, my god! I wonder how many other people have to go through this every day. And it is really hard, and our group, we belong to a group called OVE, Our Voices Exposed, that helps get the prevention world for tobacco. Brittany is a new member who just started, and Craig is with me from the beginning. And we help put out the word about prevention, such as we give kids an alternative activity to do to keep them out of trouble. And Craig will elaborate on it.

CRAIG STEVENS: We are going to be having a dance coming up this Friday.

CONGRESSMAN SANDERS: Try to speak a little bit louder. We don't have a mike. Sorry.

CRAIG STEVENS: We have going to have a dance this Friday, and we have had—what?—three dances in the past.

BLAKE KINKAID: Five.

CRAIG STEVENS: Five. We had five dances. We have had sliding parties, bowling, pizza parties. We have had a whole lot of stuff I can't remember.

BLAKE KINKAID: We have had cookouts at Lake Willoughby and Harvey's Lake sometimes. We have had jamborees down there in the summer, having a battle of the bands, and we had a haunted house that brought over 300 people. Everything we do has a nonsubstance theme. We have these things to try to keep kids off tobacco, and we try to give them something to do. I found the biggest cause of smoking and all other substance use in boredom. That is why I started, just boredom, pretty much.

CONGRESSMAN SANDERS: Brittany, do you want to add anything?

BRITTANY CHANDLER: Well, most of my friends smoke, and I have noticed that my friends that do smoke, most of them don't do activities and stuff. And so they have nothing to do with their time, and just sit around and smoke and everything. And most of the people are around people that smoke, like their parents and stuff.

ON BEHALF OF DANIELLE HARVEY, ANDREA SHAHAN, AND STEPHANIE GRAY

REGARDING OPPOSITION TO PARENTAL NOTIFICATION FOR ABORTION—MAY 7, 2001

DANIELLE HARVEY: This year, the Vermont House has discussed the question of making parental notification for abortion a requirement. We feel that this would be making a big mistake. Having to tell your parents you are sexually active is hard enough; having to tell them that you are pregnant as a result could be dangerous, maybe even life-threatening. For this reason, as well as others, some girls delay in telling their parents about the predicament, which could cause some major health risks, such as: When someone goes out of state to avoid parental involvement laws, they are putting themselves at risk during the trip home, be-

cause there may be long stretches where medical care is not readily available. Parents who are opposed to abortion might force their daughters to carry the babies to term, regardless of any possible or known health or life risks. Or a woman who is pregnant and a few months short of her 18th birthday may wait until she is 18 to have the abortion. A delay of even five days can cause major complication in a procedure. If the government and the state of Vermont, as well as the national government, wants what is best for the nation's youth, they should leave parents out of a girl's decision to have an abortion. The decision is hard enough to make on her own, and adding parents to the situation makes it almost impossible.

STEFANIE GRAY: If a child is forced to tell her parents that she is pregnant, then her parents would know that she is sexually active. Most of the time, parents don't approve. Finding out she is sexually active and pregnant could cause verbal or physical abuse by her parents. The girl's parents may force her to go through with the pregnancy, or they may even kick her out. Family breakdown is a major result from girls telling their parents that they're pregnant and want an abortion. Girls that don't have a good relationship with their parents to begin with will probably make it worse and risk abuse. Families with good relationships don't need the law, because they are supportive. Then again, you might lose the family trust. In unsupportive families, the law will be ineffective because the families would be more likely to be abusive and add to the family's problems.

ANDREA SHAHAN: Some supporters of parental notification concede that some parents can become abusive when they learn their daughter wants to receive an abortion, and they have offered an option of going before a judge, instead of their parents, to get permission to receive an abortion. This option is known as the judicial waiver. Women who live in sparsely populated areas usually have difficulty receiving a judicial waiver, since easy access to a judge is not possible. Women who live in large cities, however, have easy access to courthouses, therefore not making it fair to many women in the U.S. In receiving a judicial review, confidentiality is not guaranteed. Many teens lack the knowledge and experience of court procedures to obtain a waiver. Students who need to attend their hearings will not be able to do so during school hours. Many of the court judges are very strongly pro-life. Even though the Supreme Court requires judges to issue a waiver if the teen is mature or if an abortion is in her best interests, several judges still deny them a waiver. Judge Nixon, of the District Court in Tennessee estimated that, even under the best circumstances, the judicial waiver process would take 22 days to complete. This becomes a significant problem, given the time-sensitive nature of pregnancy, and the risk involved in later abortions. Representative Sanders, we oppose any efforts to put into effect parental notification under Vermont law, and we hope that you will oppose any efforts at the federal level as well. Thank you, Mr. Sanders.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY CELEBRATES THE BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL AND THE TRI-CENTENNIAL HERITAGE DAY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Borough of Rocky Hill, New Jersey and its Tri-Centennial Heritage Day celebration. For three centuries, the community of Rocky Hill has made tremendous contributions to our state and our nation through its legacy of committed residents and unique spirit of pride and unity.

Rocky Hill, less than one square mile in size, has a rich history that began in 1717 when John Harrison obtained land from Indian Chief Nowenock. Then, in 1783, as he awaited the news that the Treaty of Paris had been signed, General George Washington prepared his famed "Farewell to the Troops" at his home Rockingham, located in Rocky Hill.

As we know it, Rocky Hill enjoyed industrial success at the turn of the century due to its proximity to the Delaware and Raritan Canal as well as the opening of the New Jersey Railroad and Transportation Company's spur line along the Millstone River. This water traffic carried not only passengers, but lumber, coal and vegetables.

Rocky Hill has been home to not only President and General George Washington, but John Hart, a New Jersey Signer of the Declaration of Independence as well as a more recent outstanding American, former Rocky Hill Council-Member, Bill Fallon, a victim of the tragic September 11th attack.

Rocky Hill is home to a tight-knit community of families and friends and the celebration of the Tri-Centennial presents an opportunity to pause and reflect on our history and to strengthen and renew our spirit for the centuries to come.

Mr. Speaker, again, I celebrate this Tri-Centennial Heritage Day and honor the Borough of Rocky Hill and its residents, both past and present, who have worked so diligently to make this day possible. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this community and its 300th anniversary.

FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2646) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2011:

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Ackerman-Houghton Amendment to prohibit the marketing of animals so sick they oftentimes cannot even walk. Animals too weak from sickness or injury are routinely pushed, kicked, dragged, and prodded with electric shocks in an effort to move them at auctions and intermediate markets, en route to slaughter. There is no excuse of this unnecessary torment.